



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Henry C. Yuen

Serial No.: 09/607,606

Group Art Unit: 3624

Filing Date: June 30, 2000

Examiner: Geoffrey R. Akers

Title: INTERNET-BASED AUCTION METHOD

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

MAY 08 2003

GROUP 3600

Dear Sir:

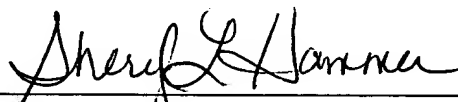
I hereby certify that the attached correspondence comprising:

Reply to Final Rejection
Postcard

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On April 30, 2003.



Sheryl L. Hammer



177/3624

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 3600

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REPLY TO FINAL REJECTION

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Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office Action mailed January 30, 2003, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present invention.

REMARKS

Applicant's invention presents a method and system for locating and purchasing an item at the lowest price offered for sale of that item by a group of vendors or sellers. The sellers are tasked to compete in a reverse bidding process to offer the item to a purchaser at a price below an initial starting bid submitted by the purchaser. After receiving a starting bid from the purchaser, the system communicates with an audience of sellers to solicit offers for sale of the requested item at a price lower than the starting bid submitted by the purchaser.

In contrast to existing approaches to the auction process, the present invention provides a system and method that creates a bidding competition among several sellers of an item to consummate a sale of that item with a purchaser at a price that is below the initial starting bid that was submitted by the purchaser.

The present invention provides an obvious advantage to the purchaser in that he or she is allowed to set the starting bid price rather than the seller or group of sellers offering the item for sale. More importantly, the purchaser is totally relieved from participating in the bidding process